

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the Specification as follows:

After the title but before the first paragraph, please insert the following new paragraph:

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a U.S. national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. § 371 U.S. of PCT Application Ser. No. PCT/EP2005/001359 having an international filing date of February 10, 2005, published in German under Publication No. WO 2005/078456 A1 on August 25, 2005, which claims priority from European Application Ser. No. EP 04003295.5, filed February 13, 2004; the disclosures of these applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

On a separate page, page 37, please insert the following abstract:

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

The invention relates to an in vitro method for detecting the formation of endothelins during serious illnesses, especially cardiovascular diseases, inflammations, sepsis and cancer, in whole blood, plasma or serum of a human patient for medical diagnosis. Using this method, relatively long-lasting peptide fragments, especially a C-terminal peptide fragment, of the processed primary prepro- or proendothelins that contain neither the actual biologically active endothelin nor its direct precursor, big endothelin, can be detected.

Enclosed herewith is a substitute sequence listing, pages 1-3, in both paper and computer readable forms, to be entered as part of the above-identified application.